

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05 CU-02
DHA-02 ORM-02 IO-13 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 /079 W
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FM AMCONSUL TRIESTE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0624
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIESTE 0082
E.O.: 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJ: NOTES FROM FRIULI

1. FRIULI SPECIAL COMMISSIONER GIUSEPPE ZAMBERLETTI (DC) ACCOMPANIED
BY FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA PRESIDENT ANTONIO COMELLI (DC) WILL PROBABLY
VISIT NEW YORK CITY DURING THAT CITY'S PLUS FRIULI WEEK PLUS, STARTING

MAY 6, TO COMMEMORATE THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE EARTHQUAKE. (HE
WILL ALSO MOST LIKELY WISH TO VISIT WASHINGTON.) THE GOAL OF PLUS
FRIULI WEEK PLUS WILL BE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS ENVI-
GED IN THE PLUS TWINNING PLUS ARRANGEMENT FIFTEEN FRIULI COMMUNITIES
AND THE BOROUGHS OF BROOKLYN, QUEENS, BRONX, MANHATTAN, AND STATEN
ISLAND; TOTAL COST OF THESE PROJECTS AMOUNTS TO ABOUT SEVEN MILLION
DOLLARS.

2. IN ADDITION, WE UNDERSTAND ZAMBERLETTI IS THINKING ABOUT PRE-
SENTING A SPECIAL AWARD -- A COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL -- TO THOSE IN-
STRUMENTAL IN PROVIDING U.S. AID TO FRIULI. HE HAS IN MIND ITALIAN-

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AMERICAN GROUPS, AND U.S. CULTURAL AND POLITICAL LEADERS AT ALL
LEVELS. PLANS ARE STILL UNCERTAIN, HOWEVER. IN FACT, ZAMBERLETTI
HAS NOT YET CONSULTED WITH ALL INTERESTED MINISTRIES, INCLUDING
THE FARNESINA. CONSULATE WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF DEVELOP-
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MENTS.
3. BY ALL INDICATIONS, ZAMBERLETTI HAS DELIVERED ON HIS PROMISE
TO HAVE HOUSING AVAILABLE FOR ALL REFUGEES IN THEIR HOME TOWNS BY
MARCH 31. APPROXIMATELY 19,000 PREFABRICATED DWELLINGS ARE
INVOLVED: ABOUT 10,00 WERE TO BE BUILT UNDER THE COMMISSIONER'S
DIRECTION AND THE REMAINDER BY THE REGION. AS OF TODAY, ZAMBER-
LETTI IS ABOUT 1,000 HOUSES SHORT OF HIS GOAL. THE REGION HAS

COMPLETED ABOUT THREE-FOURTH'S OF ITS SHARE. MOST WILL BE READY ON TIME. ACCORDING TO OFFICAL STATISTICS, FEWER THAN 10,000 REFUGEES REMAIN IN THE SEA RESORT TOWNS AND ALMOST ALL ARE EXPECTED TO RETURN HOME BY MONTH'S END.

4. AS FOR ZAMBERLETTI, THE EARTHQUAKE MAY BE THE TURNING POINT IN HIS POLITICAL CAREER. SINCE HIS ARRIVAL HERE LAST SETEMBER, HE HAS NEVER STOPPED MOVING AND MORE IMPORTANTLY NEVER STUMBLLED. ABOVE ALL, HE DID WHAT HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO DO AND HE IS ENORMOUSLY POPULAR FOR IT IN THE FRIULI. THUS, CONTARY TO WHAT

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SOME OF HIS DC COLLEAGUES MAY HAVE THROUGHT OR PERHAPS HOPED, HIS PROLONGED ABSENCE FROM ROME DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE HURT HIM. IN FACT HE WILL PROBABLY RETURN TO A HERO'S WELCOME AND AS SOMEONE TO BE RECKONED WITH IN THE PARTY, BECAUSE OF HIS APPEAL TO THE ELECTORATE.

5. AFTER HIS STINT AS EXTRAORDINARY COMMISSIONER, ZAMBERLETTI MAY FIND HIS JOB AS STATE SECRETARY FOR THE INTERIOR A BIT CONFINING. IN FACT, HE ALREADY IS BUSY IN BUILDING AN INTERNA-TIONAL IMAGE WITH HIS PROPOSED TRIP TO NEW YORK AND HIS ACCEPTANCE OF A ROMANIAN INVITATION TO ADVISE ON THE BUCHAREST EARTHQUAKE. HE ALSO WOULD LIKE TO VISIT MAJOR COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE AIDED THE FRIULI.

6. WITH THE EXPIRATION OF ZAMBERLETTI'S MANDATE ON APRIL 30, IMMEDIATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR EARTHQUAKE MATTERS WITH REGARD TO FUTURE PLANNING, RECONSTRUCTION, ETC. RETURNS TO THE FRIULI RE-GIONAL GOVERNMENT. SO FAR IT SEEMS RELUCTANT TO EXERT ITSELF, CONFIDENTIAL

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SINCE IT CONTINUES TO LEAVE THE INITIATIVE ALMOST EMTIRELY TO ZAMBERLETTI AND THE FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA DEPUTIES IN ESTABLI-SHING INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TIES, ETC. THUS, THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT BY IT BASHFULNESS RISKS ABDICATING A LEADERSHIP ROLE

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ON THE EARTHQUAKE QUESTION TO ROME WHICH ALREADY HAS THE EDGE THROUGH ITS IRON GRIP ON THE PURSE STRINGS.

7. LOCALLY, THE DC HAS MADE UP SOME LOST GROUND WITH THE VOTERS SINCE LAST SEPTEMBER. BUT THE COMMUNISTS (PCI) DESPITE THEIR RELATIVELY WEAK POSITION HERE HAVE PARLAYED THE EARTHQUAKE INTO A FORMAL CONSULATIVE ROLE AND VETO POWER FOR THEMSELVES ON ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO RECONSTRUCTION.

8. FRIULI REGIONAL ELECTIONS ARE DUE IN 1978. THEIR OUTCOME WILL DEPEND ON ONE ISSUE: PERFORMANCE OF AND LEADERSHIP BY THE PARTIES SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE. BETWEEN NOW AND THE ELECTIONS THE DC MUST SHOW THAT IT IS WORTHY OF VOTER CONFIDENCE ON BOTH

COUNTS AND OVERCOME AT THE SAME TIME ANY RESIDUAL ANTI-OSIMO
FEELING. MOEN.

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